

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8933

S E C R E T ROME 11592

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: PROGRAM OF DISCUSSION WITH ITALIAN LEADERS

1. GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S VISIT HAS GONE VERY WELL. HE HAS SEEN ANDREOTTI, COSSIGA, MARCORA, ORLANDO AND WILL SEE FORLANI (IF HE GETS BACK IN TIME). HE COULD NOT SEE MORO WHO IS OUT OF TOWN. I HAD ARRANGED TO SEE MORO INSTEAD BUT JUST THIS MORNING MORO'S OFFICE CALLED TO CANCEL THE APPOINTMENT WE HAD FOR JULY 20.

2. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S WASHINGTON REMARKS SETTING CLEAR POLITICAL CONDITIONS FOR ANY FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO ITALY HAS CREATED A STORM OF PROTEST IN THE PRESS AND THE POLITICAL CLASS. COSSIGA TOLD SCRANTON YESTERDAY OF HIS DEEP IRRITATION AT THIS STEP WHICH THE ITALIANS BELIEVE HAD U.S. BLESSING. ANDREOTTI WAS MORE RESERVED IN HIS COMMENT BUT HE TOLD SCRANTON THAT SCHMIDT'S STATEMENT MADE HIS JOB OF KEEPING THE COMMUNISTS OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OUT OF THE AREA OF POWER MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. MORO HAS NATURALLY ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING NONE OF THE ITALIAN MINISTERS PARTICIPATED IN OR HAD KNOWLEDGE OF MEETINGS ABOUT POLITICAL CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO AID AT PUERTO RICO AND CHARACTERIZED THIS EXPRESSION OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS' APPRAISALS OF THE ITALIAN SITUATION AS "INAPPROPRIATE".

3. THE INITIAL PRESS REACTION CONCENTRATED ON THE GERMAN

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SOURCE. UGO STILLE WRITING FROM NEW YORK FOR THE CORRIERE

DELLA SERA HAS AN ARTICLE TODAY CITING A WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN AS CONFIRMING THE ACCURACY OF SCHMIDT'S STATEMENTS. STILLE REFERS TO A NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE WHICH ATTRIBUTES THE POLITICAL CONDITIONS TO THE "KISSINGER FORMULA". HE WENT ON TO INDICATE THAT THERE ARE APPARENTLY TWO ASPECTS TO OUR POSITION, THE RIGID ONE AND THE MORE FLEXIBLE ONE. THE LATTER WOULD EXCLUDE COMMUNISTS FROM GOVERNMENT BUT NOT NECESSARILY FROM THE GOVERNING APPARATUS BELOW CABINET LEVEL (THIS IS CHARACTERIZED AS UNCERTAIN) AND WOULD PERMIT PRIOR AGREEMENT ON PROGRAM CONTENT.

4. WE HAVE THUS FAR MANAGED TO AVOID PUBLICITY FOR THE SCRANTON/LODGE EFFORT BUT I AM EXTREMELY WORRIED THAT GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED, WE MAY BECOME PUBLIC VERY SOON. FURTHER, I AM PERPLEXED AT THE SCHMIDT INTERVENTION WHICH, BECAUSE OF ITS HAVING TAKEN PLACE IN THE U.S. IMPLIES PRIOR U.S. KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL. IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT WE INTENDED TO MAKE OUR REPRESENTATIONS TO THE ITALIANS DISCREETLY. IRONICALLY, THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS HAVE FOR SOME TIME NOW BEEN THE CHAMPIONS OF ITALIAN NATIONALISM. WHILE ITALY IS PROBABLY LESS NATIONALISTIC THAN ALMOST ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN EUROPE, THE GERMAN POSITION ANNOUNCED SO BRUTALLY CREATES RESENTMENT IN THE MOST INDIFFERENT ITALIAN AND IS THEREFORE GRIST FOR THE COMMUNIST MILL.

5. IN VIEW OF THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, I WONDER WHETHER WE SHOULD PROCEED FURTHER WITH THIS PROJECT IN ITS PRESENT FORMAT. SCRANTON HAS SEEN THE KEY PEOPLE AND HAS TOLD ME THAT WE NEED AN EXPLANATION OF ITALY'S "ISOLATION" AT PUERTO RICO WHICH WILL SATISFY ITALIANS WITH WHOM LODGE WILL MEET. MEETING SCHEDULED FOR LODGE WITH UMBERTO AGNELLI AND WE ARE SETTING UP MEETINGS WITH YOUNGER PEOPLE AND OTHERS ON LIST.

6. I EARNESTLY AND URGENTLY SOLICIT GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION. VOLPE

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